



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Thursday, October 9, 2008

Arizona Department of Public Safety seizes over 1,700 pounds of marijuana and \$36,000 in cash on the same day

On October 4, 2008, at 3:19 p.m., an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officer stopped a vehicle on westbound Interstate 10 near Picacho Peak for failure to signal. During the stop, two concealed handguns were located. A box containing \$36,100 in cash was also located in the vehicle. The weapons, cash and the vehicle, a 2007 Avalanche, were seized.

Suspect: Orlando Mendoza Saucedo 20 of Phoenix. Charges: Misconduct involving weapons

Five hours later, a DPS officer stopped a commercial vehicle on northbound Interstate 17 near New River for a traffic violation. The officer noticed that wooden crates inside the cargo area were not consistent with the rest of the load. A search of the wooden crates resulted in the discovery and seizure of 1,728 pounds of marijuana. This seizure was made with assistance from Phoenix Police.

Suspect: Nevin Charles Blake 44 of Tucker, Georgia

Charges: Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana for sale, Transportation of Marijuana for Sale and attempted bribery of a public official.

The suspect is a Canadian citizen and has an INS hold on him.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agency in United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix with offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | azdps.gov | pio@azpds.gov